

# State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE TIMOTHY L. VOCKE  
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY  
Director and General Counsel

April 11, 2013

The Honorable Scott Walker  
Room 115 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the final status report submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice regarding Wisconsin's efforts to ensure that military and overseas voters have the full opportunity to vote guaranteed by the Uniformed and Overseas Civilian Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). This status report is the final requirement of a consent decree entered into between the United States Department of Justice and the State of Wisconsin, and approved by the federal court in *United States of America v. State of Wisconsin, et al.*, Case No. 12-CV-197 in the U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin.

Two recent changes have greatly expanded the opportunity for military and overseas voters to participate in the electoral process. First, 2011 Wisconsin Acts 45 and 75 moved the dates of the Presidential Preference Primary and the Partisan Primary, respectively, and also permitted military and overseas voters to access their ballots 47 days prior to Federal elections, more than the 45 days required by the Federal MOVE Act. Second, the G.A.B. launched the MyVote Wisconsin website (<http://myvote.wi.gov>) which allows military and overseas voters to access their ballots online. Highlights regarding the impact of MyVote Wisconsin on voting by military and overseas electors during the 2012 Presidential and General Election are described in the enclosed report.

In addition to these significant structural and administrative steps forward, G.A.B. staff, along with county and municipal clerks, spent thousands of hours to ensure that ballots were available and transmitted timely to military and overseas voters last fall, and in assisting those voters with the process. G.A.B. staff has intervened directly in rare instances in which a ballot was not issued by the statutory deadline to ensure that the voter was able to return the ballot in order to be counted.

The enclosed report is being provided to the Governor's office, legislative leaders, members of the elections committees in the Assembly and the Senate, Wisconsin's congressional delegation, and the Department of Military Affairs. I encourage you to share all that the State of Wisconsin has accomplished with others who are interested in supporting the opportunity for military and overseas electors to exercise their right to vote. If you have any additional questions regarding the enclosed status report, or voting by military and overseas electors in Wisconsin, please contact Michael Haas, the Elections Division Administrator at 608-266-0136 or [Michael.Haas@wi.gov](mailto:Michael.Haas@wi.gov).

Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J. Kennedy".

Kevin J. Kennedy  
Director and General Counsel

cc: Members, Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

Enclosure